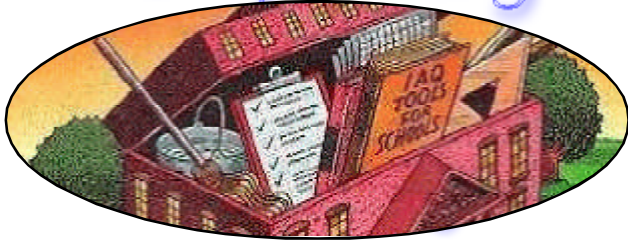


Improving



Indoor Air Quality at your School



Why should your school be concerned with indoor air quality?

- The quality of the indoor air can either impede or assist a school in meeting its core mission — educating students.
- Poor indoor air quality has been linked to illness and absence in schools.
- Nearly one in 13 school-aged children has asthma, and the percentage of children with asthma is rising more rapidly in preschool-aged children than in any other age group.
- Accounting for over 10 million missed school days per year, Asthma is the leading cause of school absenteeism due to a chronic illness.
- According to a 1995 federal report, an estimated 50% of schools in the U.S. have problems linked to poor indoor air quality.
- Twenty percent of the U.S. population, nearly 55 million people, spend their days in schools.



The Environmental Protection Agency and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management have teamed up to help provide guidance for schools to improve their indoor air quality through a program called Tools for Schools. The program can provide your school:

free training or workshops
Tools for School Kit
Incentive Mini Grants
Additional information on Integrated Pest Management (IPM)



Why should my school participate in the Tools for Schools Program?

Targets most common indoor air quality problems
Common sense approaches
No cost/low cost
Voluntary
Easy-to-use checklists



Guidance can also help save the school's resources through:

- Reduce absenteeism and sick days for students and staff.
- Reduce deterioration and improved energy efficiency of the school's heating, cooling, and ventilation systems.
- Increase productivity for teachers and staff.
- Reduce the possibility of school closings and temporary relocation.
- Prevent strained relationships among school administration and parents and staff, and negative publicity.
- Reduce potential liability problems.



The Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Tools for Schools Kit shows schools how to carry out a practical plan of action to improve indoor air quality at little or no cost using common-sense activities and in-house staff. The Kit provides:

- Simple-to-follow checklists for teachers, health professional, administrators, facility managers.
- Background information, sample memos and policies.
- Recommended IAQ Management Plan
- Unique IAQ Problem Solving Wheel.
- Appendices include information on topics such as hiring outside assistance, mold and moisture control, renovation and repair, radon and integrated pest management.
- Videos training tapes called "Taking Action and Ventilation Basics "



For more information:

You can download or obtain all of the "Tools for Schools" kit with the exception of the videotapes and problem-solving wheel on the internet: www.epa.gov/iaq/schools

If you would like to receive a free "Tools for Schools" kit, complete with the video training tapes and the problem solving wheel. Please send a request with school letterhead to:



EPA Region 5 — Indoor Air Pollution
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604

Or contact Tami Johnson, Children's Environmental Health Manager at the Indiana Department of Environmental Management:

1-800-988-7901 ask for ext. 3-5628 or

(317) 233-5628 or

e-mail tsjohnso@dem.state.in.us



Visit IDEM's website at

www.state.in.us/idem

